

AIDS research. They also contributed to the invention of the polio vaccine—a fitting end for the cells of a woman who had been a vocal advocate for polio eradication. To date, some twenty tons of these cells have been grown.

The achievements these cells have made possible are undeniably thrilling, but we cannot forget the dark side of this story: that the cells were taken without Henrietta Lacks's consent, that her family was not told for many years what had been done, and that such practices were not uncommon. Lacks was just one of many individuals of that era whose right to consent to procedures performed on her own body was taken away in the name of scientific advancement. Had her cells not been so unusual, her story would likely not be known.

Today we not only honor Henrietta Lacks and her legacy, but we also remember every forgotten individual who because of racial discrimination or poverty was subject to some form of medical injustice. Her story contains at once the greatest heights and most shameful depths of which medicine is capable, and only in acknowledging both can we hope to pursue a world for our future generations that strives for both knowledge and justice.

This more just world requires that we work for access to health care for all, regardless of socioeconomic status. One of the greatest outrages of Henrietta Lacks's story has been that while the medical industry makes millions from advances she made possible, members of her own family have struggled to afford care, and have never been able to benefit from the medical discoveries made. As we fight for solutions to these injustices, I pledge to remember Henrietta's family's words, "We are asking each of you to be her voice." On behalf of the 5th District of Virginia, I thank Dr. Ronald Pattillo of the Morehouse School of Medicine for his support for the tombstone dedication and the Lacks family for their dedicated efforts to telling her story and ensuring that future generations will know that we have Henrietta's immortal cells to thank for countless discoveries made and lives saved.

HONORING HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston, Maine on its 100 year anniversary and its subsequent consecration.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston, Maine was founded in 1910. As a small church on Lincoln Street in downtown Lewiston, it was established to serve more than 3,000 Greeks in the community who were drawn to the area by jobs in the Bates and surrounding mills. As the mills began to close in the 1950's, the Greek residents migrated south to the Massachusetts mills, and the population of Holy Trinity reduced significantly. Despite this drop in population, a new church was built in 1977 on Hogan Road, and Holy Trinity continued to be known as a pillar of civic leadership in the area.

On Saturday May 22, 2010, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church celebrated its 100th

Anniversary. On the following Sunday, they consecrated their 33-year old church building, marking a commitment to Greek Orthodoxy in Lewiston for generations to come. Greek Orthodox churches are consecrated just once in their lifetime, usually after a milestone has been met to ensure that the building is a permanent part of the parish. Archbishop Metropolitan Methodios chose the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston as one of only two consecrations he would preside over in 2010.

From 2000 to 2008, Holy Trinity, largely under the stewardship of Fr. Ted Toppses, extended its outreach past Lewiston to the surrounding areas and expanded its membership by fifty families. Always a vital part of Lewiston, the Church continues to address the spiritual and social needs of the surrounding communities.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the centennial and consecration of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Lewiston and all of the contributions they make to the communities in the greater Lewiston and Auburn area.

ON INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA ON ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution recognizing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora on its 35th anniversary.

CITES was created in 1973 to ensure that international trade in wild plants and animals does not threaten their survival. CITES entered into force on July 1, 1975 and thus will celebrate its 35th anniversary on July 1, 2010. Launched with a few signatory nations, CITES has now 175 parties that have an international obligation and responsibility to protect our planets' endangered animals and plants. Nearly 5,000 species of animals and 28,000 species of plants are protected by the Convention against over-exploitation through international trade. Adherence to these protective measures has proven to have benefited the conservation of animals and plants worldwide.

Unfortunately, more and more species are at risk of extinction and international trade, both legal and illegal, has exacerbated the dangers. International wildlife trade is estimated to be worth billions of dollars per year and to include hundreds of millions of live plants and animals and derived products such as food products, leather and fur, ornamentals, medicinal, and timber. Such high levels of exploitation of and trade in wild animals and plants, together with other factors such as habitat loss, are capable of bringing some species close to extinction.

Between 1979 and 1989 more than 600,000 African elephants were killed for their ivory, cutting the continent's population in half. Nevertheless, poaching has continued with an estimated 38,000 elephants killed annually and

23.2 tons of poached ivory seized since 2007. As sea ice declines, polar bears will not be able to adapt to a terrestrial-based life resulting in increased mortality, reduced reproduction, increased human-bear conflicts, and overall drastic decline of populations. Several sharks have been severely depleted with declines as high as 99 percent in some areas as a result of the high demand for their fins and meat. Overfishing, increased consumer demand and inadequate enforcement of infractions have led to historically low populations of bluefin tuna.

Every two to three years the parties of CITES meet at the Conference of the Parties to review the status of species in danger of extinction and establish trade restrictions. The 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties was held in March 2010. Several proposals were submitted during the summit, some of them ensuring better protections for endangered species, others trying to downlist species and re-open trade. While proposals to downlist elephant populations in Tanzania and Zambia were successfully defeated, several proposals to establish stronger protections for the polar bear, eight sharks, the bluefin tuna and other species were unfortunately rejected. I am saddened to see that economic interests have prevailed over species conservation, risking to bring species close to extinction. This is unacceptable.

My resolution will congratulate the Convention on its 35th anniversary and recognize the important contributions it has made since its establishment in regulating international trade in endangered species and protecting endangered species worldwide. It will also applaud the Convention's recent leadership in protecting elephants in Tanzania and Zambia. Lastly, the resolution will urge all parties to the Convention to collaborate effectively to curb excessive exploitation of species for international trade and, in particular, to adopt stronger protections for the polar bear, sharks, bluefin tuna and other endangered species at the 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2013.

Madam Speaker, the United States has a moral obligation to protect endangered species and their natural habitat. Wild animals are a very important part of our commonly held natural resources and contribute to the diversity and stability of our environment. We must continue to maintain a balanced and healthy ecosystem that allows for the coexistence of both human beings and the world's most incredible species.

I urge my colleagues to join me in protecting wildlife and environmental conservation across the globe by supporting this important resolution.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT J. COLLINS

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 28, 2010

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Robert J. Collins, Superintendent of the Grossmont Union High School District, which I have the pleasure of representing.

Bob Collins has served the Grossmont Union High School District with distinction for